

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Revised Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, December 5, 2001
6:00 – 9:00 PM
Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen, Don Steinke, Art Stubbs and Peter Tuck

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Sam Giese, and Earl Rowell

Guests

Gary Bock, WSU Watershed Stewards; and Steve Prather, Clark Public Utilities;

Audience

Thom McConathy, Bill Owen, and Virginia VanBreeman

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and guests were introduced. Chair, Commissioner Kemper, then called the meeting to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 12/05/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting Agenda;
 2. 11/07/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes;
 3. 2002 Calendar of Clark County Clean Water Commission and Other Water-related Events;
 4. USGS Science for a changing world – Selected Findings and Current Perspectives on Urban and Rural Water Quality by the National Water-Quality Assessment Program;
 5. E-mail from Jeff Schnabel to Earl Rowell dated 12/3/01;
 6. Draft - Ten Step Planner – Board of Commissioner Work Sessions; (note day change)
 - 6.A Draft – Board of County Commissioners Clean Water Commission Work Session;
 7. Watershed Stewards Program 2001 Third Quarter Report, By Gary Bock;
 8. Stormwater Capital Improvement Program Framework;
 - 8A. Exhibit A – Prioritization Criteria for Interim Capital Projects;
 9. Draft – Clark County Inspection Summary Data; and
- * Preliminary Description of Current and Planned Monitoring Activities by Agency

11/07/01 notes

The notes from the 11/7/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting were approved as written.

Recognition of people doing good clean water work

Mr. Kemper asked the Clean Water Commissioners if they had developed any criteria or had come up with some names for nomination.

Mr. Agard: Who is going to come up with the criteria?

Mr. Rowell: The Clean Water Commissioners should develop some criteria and county staff will give you a list of names to choose from.

Mr. Agard: I would like county staff to develop the criteria for nominating and then this commission would take it from there.

Mr. Steinke: Is this getting us off track? Do we have other important priorities we should be working on?

Mr. Stubbs: I see it as a way to bring positive attention to the clean water program and to this Commission.

Mr. Agard: I agree. The people who take the time to work in the streams need to be recognized.

Mr. Kemper: I also think it is a good idea, though I can understand Mr. Steinke's point.

Mr. Kemper: I suggest that county staff should come up with criteria for nomination that this commission can review at the January meeting.

Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies

Mr. Rowell: There are four grants that will wrap up at the end of this year:

- Wellhead protection grant
- Drywell management grant
- Lacamas lake restoration grant
- East Fork restoration grant

Mr. Rowell: Any remaining dollars from these grants will go back to the state and can be utilized to fund other grants, such as our two Centennial grants.

Election of Officers

Mr. Rowell: According to the Clark County Clean Water Commission By Laws, Section 7. Election of Officers: The officers of the Clean Water Commission shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair elected by the appointed members of the Clean Water Commission. The election of officers shall take place once each year during the last meeting in December of each calendar year. The term of office as an officer shall run until the subsequent election. The vacancy of an office caused by the resignation or removal of any officer of the Clean Water Commissioner during his/her term of office shall be filled for the remaining term of office by the vote of a majority of the Board.

Mr. Rowell: This Commission may want to amend the by-laws in order to hold the election of officers in February to coincide with the terms of commissioners.

Mr. Kemper: Do we, as a Commission, want to hold the election of officers at this meeting or do we want to recommend that the by-laws be amended to the Board of County Commissioner's?

Mr. Agard: I think that we need to follow the by-laws and hold our election of officers at this meeting.

Mr. Kemper: The floor is open for elections.

Mr. Stubbs nominated to re-elect Mr. Kemper as Chair of the Clark County Clean Water Commission.

Mr. Ek seconds the nomination.

By a unanimous vote Mr. Kemper was re-appointed Chair of the Clark County Clean Water Commission for the year 2002.

Mr. Stubbs nominated to re-elect Mr. Agard as Vice-Chair of the Clark County Clean Water Commission.

Mr. Agard declined the nomination as Vice-Chair and nominated Mrs. Rasmussen as Vice-Chair of the Clark County Clean Water Commission.

Mrs. Martin seconds the nomination.

By a unanimous vote Mrs. Rasmussen was appointed Vice-Chair of the Clark County Clean Water Commission for the year 2002.

Term expiration of Commissioners Steinke, Stubbs, and Tuck

Mr. Rowell: In February 2002 the terms of Commissioners Steinke, Stubbs and Tuck will expire. The Board of County Commissioners can re-appoint these Commissioners for another three-year term or recommend other citizens for this Commission. *[Note: Mr. Tuck has stated that he will step down from the Clean Water Commission.]*

Mr. Agard: How soon does the Board of County Commissioners have to replace outgoing Commissioners?

Mr. Rowell: The Board of County Commissioners has 60 days to fill a vacant seat on the Clean Water Commission.

BOCC/CWC Work Session 12/12/01, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, BOCC Hearings Room

Mr. Rowell: The work session originally scheduled with the BOCC on December 12, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. has been rescheduled for January 16, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. There will be one more Clean Water Commission meeting to finalize the contents of the report that will be presented to the BOCC.

The draft outline for the meeting is as follows:

January 16, 2001 Work Session:

Purpose: The Clean Water Commission will be updating the Board of County Commissioner about the Clean Water Program:

Tentative agenda (subject to change):

- 1) 2001 Activities Accomplishments/Concerns*
- 2) Recommendations to address Concerns*
- 3) 2002 Work Plan*

Public Input

Mr. McConathy: The TMDL process on Salmon creek and Gibbons creek is being done behind closed doors with no public input. I object to this happening behind closed doors. I hope that this commission will be part of this because it has important ramifications to your commission.

Mr. Agard: Who is doing this?

Mr. McConathy: Dave Howard is working on Salmon creek and Rusty Post is working on Gibbons Creek both of which work for Washington Department of Ecology. All stakeholders should be a part of this process.

Mr. Rowell: We were invited to the meeting at Washington Department of Ecology's request. Many of these meetings are in the development phase and at some point there will be a public review.

Mr. McConathy: It will be available for public review in January. Please take a look at Washington Department of Ecology's web site. I do not believe that this TMDL will support fisheries in Clark County streams.

Mr. Kemper: I believe we should take Mr. McConathy's advice and look into this.

Mr. Rowell: If this Commission is interested we can ask Mr. Howard and Mr. Post to attend a Clean Water Commission meeting to provide more information about this process.

Mr. Agard: I think it would be beneficial to have them attend a Clean Water Commission meeting in the future.

Mr. McConathy: Code enforcement is a disaster. Development Review has so many inspections to do that they can't keep up and the creeks are getting muddier. People have come to accept the fact that every time it rains the creeks get muddy which is not natural.

Mr. Agard: I've worked with code enforcement and I've had good responses. I haven't seen any problems.

Mr. Bourlet: There are many reasons mud may be in a creek.

Presentation

Clark Public Utilities – Steve Prather

Mr. Prather from Clark Public Utilities informed the Clean Water Commissioners that they began monitoring streams in the early 1990's. Approximately 80 % of groundwater they monitor are in the Salmon Creek basin. He also explained that they have a number of groundwater wells that are monitored.

Mr. Prather reviewed with the Clean Water Commissioners the sites that they are monitoring.

Mr. Bourlet: Do you have a document that refers to water quantity?

Mr. Prather: The documents I have provided only refer to water quality.

Mr. Stubbs: How often are wells tested?

Mr. Prather: They are tested monthly

Mr. Bourlet: Is this information sent to the Washington Department of Ecology?

Mr. Prather: Yes, it is sent to the Washington Department of Ecology.

Mr. Bourlet: Which direction do you see Clark Public Utilities going in the next 5 years?

Mr. Prather: We see ourselves as long term players working closely with Washington Department of Ecology. We would like to help other agencies with projects in the Salmon Creek basin. Presently, Clark Public Utilities is involved in a watershed assessment plan in Salmon Creek. We hope to have a draft of that early next year.

Mr. Agard: Can you provide a copy of the assessment plan to this commission?

Mr. Prather: I can provide this commission with a copy of the assessment plan when it becomes available.

Mrs. Rasmussen: Do you have dedicated water testers or do you contract out?

Mr. Prather: We have a contractor that collects the samples.

Update

Watershed Stewards – Gary Bock

Mr. Bock provided the Clean Water Commissioners with a copy of the Watershed's Stewards quarterly report.

Mr. Bock emphasized that the Watershed Stewards are increasing their knowledge, growing in numbers, and making a difference in the communities. Several of the Watershed Stewards have the confidence and willingness to seek out their own volunteer activities. Despite a low turn out for the fall class he feels very positive regarding the outreach of past graduates.

Mr. Agard: Have you looked at why your enrollment is down?

Mr. Bock: The newspaper held on to the press release two weeks after I sent them in, also the events of September 11 affected enrollment. I need to do more outreach; in the future I plan to work more with service clubs and neighborhood associations.

Mr. Ek: Can you give us a rundown on the background of the current class?

Mr. Bock: One student has a degree in ecology, one works for a fisheries company, one is retired and one is a government worker. There are a total of five students in this class.

Mr. Stubbs: Don't you think that the quality of work that they do has as much to do as the quantity of people graduating from the program?

Mr. Bock: Absolutely, I'm hoping that these five will all be high quality.

Mr. Agard: Sounds like you are heading in the right direction. Is there anything that county staff can do to help you in your outreach?

Mr. Bock: Cindy Meats is my primary contact and she is very helpful. Perhaps the Public Information Office can assist in making connections with the newspaper, as I am not having much success.

Ms. VanBreedman: When does the next class start?

Mr. Bock: The next Watershed Stewards class begins at the end of February.

Stormwater and Capital Program: CIP Framework Plan – Sam Giese

Sam Giese referred the Clean Water Commissioners to a handout that outlined stormwater capital projects and expenditures and asked for their feedback.

Mr. Bourlet: Are there any projects from this list which require you to buy land?

Mr. Giese: The large projects and some of the Washington Department of Transportation projects will require the purchase of land.

Mr. Stubbs: How do we go about setting priorities?

Mr. Giese: The purpose of this handout is to establish those criteria.

Mr. Bourlet: If we need to buy land for a project I think we need to seriously look into doing that.

Mr. Kemper: Part of our job, as a commission, is to come out with recommendations to Board of County Commissioners on these projects. We are going to have to take a good look at this handout and decide what is important and measure how we will get the most bang for our buck.

Mr. Rowell: This Commission may want to form a subcommittee to look more closely at these. The subcommittee can then make their recommendations to the Clean Water Commission at the January meeting.

Mr. Bourlet, Mr. Stubbs, Mr. Tuck and Mrs. Rasmussen have volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

2001 CWC Annual Report Work

Mr. Rowell: Included in your packet of materials is a list of all the motions this commission made in the year 2001. You may want to include that information in the annual report.

Mr. Rowell: This commission needs to decide what information to put into the annual report.

Mr. Ek: At first glance it looks too favorable to be believable. There are many positives and not any negatives.

Mr. Agard: I would like the annual report to show that we are disappointed in the number watershed stewards.

Mr. Bourlet: I would like the annual report to show that we were not happy with the incentive process.

Mr. Tuck: We need to include a list of all the incentives that we worked on and why we couldn't implement them. We spent a great deal of time on one particular incentive and then were told at the very end by county staff that we wouldn't be able to implement the incentive.

Mr. Kemper: Let's each take some time to review this past year and compile a list of what you would like to include in the annual report.

Mr. Ek: We need to address how much cleaner the water is this year compared to last year.

Mr. Kemper: I would like each Clean Water Commissioner to work on this and send your list, via e-mail, to Mr. Rowell and he will bring the information to the next meeting.

Next Meeting, January 9, 2002

Due to the holidays, the next Clean Water Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2002.

- Work on 2003-2004 budget.
- 2001 Annual Report

Adjourn

Mr. Kemper adjourned the Clean Water Commission meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead

- 1/16/02, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. - BOCC/Clean Water Commission Work Session – BOCC Hearings Room

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost

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